

## CEO Report

*Good evening NIECI,*  
Hwy 38 is busy today! It looks like a lot of people are out searching for treasures along the 38 garage sales. I talked to my mom yesterday; she was a little bummed she was missing the sales this year. I reminded her we should be holding a sale rather than going to one.

It's ok; I'm missing them also this year. I still enjoy looking for that treasure I can't live without. Visiting with everyone is a good time also.

I want to congratulate Mr. Chuck Peck. After almost 30 years on the job, Chuck is hanging up his hooks and belt. Chuck has been a great coworker and friend to all

We have begun

at North Itasca Electric. He was always willing to do whatever was asked of him.

We ask a lot of our linemen. These gentlemen miss a lot of family events, trips and sleep on our behalf. They respond at a moment's notice to safely get our power back on. This is a hard profession physically and mentally. My hat is off to Chuck and our line crew, thank you.

Also, thank you to the Peck family and all our lineman families. You folks know the stress of seeing the taillights leave the yard in nasty conditions. Thank you for your support for our crew.



Brad Dolinski, CEO

working on the 2026 budget. It is up to staff and I to put together an accurate budget for our Board of Directors. The Directors' job is to review the budget and eventually make rate decisions based off our best estimate.

I'm excited to work together with my staff on this. We put a lot of strategic thought into what we plan to do the following year. We will look for opportunities to

CEO to p.2>

## Member Services Update

by Drew Francisco

Hello again everyone! Hope all you have been enjoying the bi-polar season we have been working through.

It has been a busy month for North Itasca Electric as the office crew attended some in-house training. After the training we can implement some new procedures that will help the flow of our office team; exciting to be a part of!

It's that time of year to start thinking about

that Energystar.gov published that stated

getting our homes ready for the winter season. I thought of this as I was changing filters and preparing our office building. Not

only do these tasks save you from worrying about it when it's negative 30 degrees, it can also improve the efficiency of the equipment when it's properly maintained.

the typical U.S. Family spends \$2,060 annually on home utility bills. With recent changes in economy and weather patterns, the utility prices are on the rise. Not changing your furnace filters can influence how hard your equipment will

## Second round for Bigfork Revitalization grants

Applications are open for the second round of Business Revitalization Grants, a program available to business owners in Bigfork and surrounding communities. The application period closes Oct. 31 with awards distributed in November.

The purpose of the grant funding is to match your business investment in improving either external or internal aesthetics or structures. In the first round, five local businesses were awarded matching grants, with an additional four businesses using their awards toward application fees for larger grants programs.

Need to replace an awning or signage? Make your investment go further by applying for this grant. Call or email Drew Francisco for more information at (218) 256-4142 or andrewf@nieci.com



Bigfork Valley Hospital used its grant toward refurbishing bay windows in the nursing home (left) and siding the chimney in the Villa.



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Kids Fall Coloring Contest

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**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday  
7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
(218) 743-3131

## CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1  
save where we can, this helps offset what we do not have control over. Great River Energy has suggested they could have a roughly 3% rate increase in 2026, this would be about a 1.5% rate increase on your bill from North Itasca Electric. This increase would fall on the kWh side of your bill. I will have more information for you next month concerning the budget.

Our office professionals have been busy this past month. We took an opportunity to spend some time training on a few fo-

cal points. Our partner at CFC provided a deep dive on capital credits and they were able to hold the course in Cohasset. We made the decision to close the office that day. This was too much of an opportunity to enhance our understanding about the process and importance of capital credits.

Last week we hosted our software provider to further train on process improvement in the current and new accounting software. There were efficiencies found in this process. We conducted similar training a few months ago with

the billing software. This training will enhance our abilities to better serve our members. This will also free up some time in our day-to-day processes.

There is the snapshot of your cooperative for the month. We are continuing our efforts to best serve you, our Member-Owners. I hope you can get out and spend a little time in this beautiful weather. Fall is here and the fish are biting; I've even heard of a few grouse being seen in the woods. Whatever it is you enjoy, I think fall is one of the best times of the year.

*By your side! Miigwech  
Brad*

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## WATTS NEWS

WATTS NEWS is published monthly by:  
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(800) 762-4048

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Chief Executive Officer: Brad Dolinski  
WATTS NEWS Editor: Sally Sedgwick  
Send all calendar items, recipes, advertisements and other correspondence for WATTS NEWS to the Editor at: P.O. Box 43, Spring Lake, MN 56680

## Member Services

>from p.1  
need to run to deliver conditioned air. Running harder or longer, you guessed it, raises your energy consumed.

The appliances we rely on to store our food or dry our clothes also have an effect on our home energy usage. Dirty coils on the fridge have the same effect as a clogged air filter; Grab the vacuum and make the kids clean them out! The

clothes dryer vent is often forgotten about. Do what you can to blow all the old lint out of the line so your dryer can do its job in a timely manner.

A quick reminder that rebate dollars will be going away at the end of December 2025.

If you have questions or a potential project that could qualify, please reach out! As always, I hope all of you enjoy the remainder of the last



Drew Francisco

few summer days and if there is anything I can do to help you please do not hesitate to reach out!

*Until next time,  
Drew Francisco*

## FEDERAL REBATES EXPIRE AT THE END OF THE YEAR

Category	Description	Tax credit amount	Date expires
Energy efficient home upgrades	For purchase and installation of energy efficient appliances or building envelope components	Up to \$2,000 for heat pumps and heat pump water heaters, \$1,200 for insulation/air sealing, \$600 for windows	Dec. 31, 2025
Clean energy systems	For investments in renewable energy for your home	Equals 30% of qualifying costs for rooftop solar, battery storage and geothermal heating installation	Dec. 31, 2025

## Keep us up-to-date

Please keep your contact information current with our office. Please notify North Itasca Electric of any changes in property ownership, mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

You can send in a change of address using the form on page 4.

Visit your co-op at  
[www.NorthItascaElectric.com](http://www.NorthItascaElectric.com)

**All are Welcome!** Jesse Lake Lutheran Free Community Meal  
**Meatloaf & Cheesy Potatoes**  
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**4-6 p.m.**  
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45834 County Road 4 (2 miles from Talmoen)

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## Electrical Inspections

Except for minor repair work, all electrical work you do at your home, cabin, or property is required to be inspected by a State Electrical Inspector. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit [www.electricity.state.mn.us](http://www.electricity.state.mn.us) for more information.

The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

- **Itasca County** – Eric Kluge (612) 772-6659
- **Koochiching County** – Brian Johnson (612) 757-9458
- **Beltrami County** – Wade Koons (218) 580-8589

## North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Directors

Chairman: Larry Salmela, District 3

Vice-Chair: Wes Waller, District 2

Secretary: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5

Treasurer: Roy Bain, District 9

Rep. to GRE Board: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5

James White, District 1 Mary Rahier, District 4

Todd Christensen, District 6 Tom Kallio, District 7

Jeff Kilian, District 8

## Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.  
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Aug. 28, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on Aug. 28, 2025.

**Directors present:** R. Bain, J. White, J. Kilian, L. Kongsjord, T. Kallio, W. Waller, T. Christensen, L. Salmela, M. Rahier.

**Also present:** CEO Brad Dolinski, Dan Heinecke, Andy Shaw, Drew Francisco and Gina Vickerman.

- Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- A motion to adopt the agenda. Seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda. Seconded; motion carried.
- A safety discussion was held by Brad. He informed the board NIECI has invested in RESAP training.
- Dan presented the Operating Report. Motion to approve was made. Seconded; motion carried.
- Andy presented Policy 400.70 – Employee Assistance Program for discussion. Motion of policy 400.70 being read and reviewed. Seconded; motion carried.
- Brad presented the Line Department report. MREA was on site for Job Site Hazards with the field crews. Rachel and Kristi have been helping with the Fire Mitigation Grant. Dixon Lake project is completed.
- Drew presented the Members Service report. He has scheduled and completed a lot of home evaluations in the last month. Bigfork Revitalization Grant and Operation Round Up are set to open September 1st.
- Dan presented the Office Report.
- Brad presented the CEO report.
- Wes Waller gave the MREA report.
- Lloyd gave the GRE report.
- Round Table discussion was held. Motion to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

### To be placed on the board meeting agenda:

If you wish to speak with the board or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact CEO Brad Dolinski at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.



## Home heating for a bargain

*Air source heat pumps provide year-round comfort that is efficient and cost-effective*



As the summer heat begins to fade away and cooler air returns for another season, consumers may find themselves considering how to efficiently and cost-effectively heat their home throughout another Minnesota winter.

Advances in electric heating technology, particularly air source heat pumps (ASHP), are helping to make electricity the go-to choice. They perform well in cold climates and have quickly become cost competitive with conventional furnaces — even beating them in upfront cost when coupled with federal, state and local utility incentives.

ASHPs are three to five times more efficient than most traditional heating systems because it takes less energy to move heat around than to produce it. With a natural gas furnace, heat must first be created by burning gas and then additional energy distributes it throughout your home.

With an ASHP, the heat energy itself is taken from the air outside (even when temperatures drop well below freezing), meaning energy is only needed to transport and distribute that heat indoors. As a result, ASHPs are often far less expensive to run than other heating systems, translating to hundreds of dollars in annual savings for an average household.

While the annual expected cost of heating a home with a natural gas furnace can be slightly cheaper in some areas, ASHPs are far more affordable than propane. Members could expect to save \$600 annually to deliver the same amount of heat by switching from a propane furnace or boiler to an ASHP. Homeowners will also avoid the price volatility of oil, propane and gas.

Factor in available federal tax credits (30%, up to \$2,000 when installed before Dec. 31, 2025) and rebates from local electric cooperatives, ASHPs become an even more appealing investment.

## We may have a check for you!

North Itasca Electric has a long list of Members and former Members who have been sent capital credit checks, but whose checks were returned. One of the checks may be for you or someone you know! For instance, have you changed addresses over the last 20 years without updating our contact information with the office?

Check the list at NorthItascaElectric.com! If you know anyone on the list, have them contact the office at (218) 743-3131 or 1(800) 762-4048, or email or support @ nieci.com to update your contact information and claim the check.



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## Cold weather rule & energy assistance program notice

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by North Itasca Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from North Itasca Electric Cooperative. Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects. Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30:

**North Itasca Electric Cooperative must provide:**

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule

protection; and

- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

**Energy Assistance Program**

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60 percent of the state median income (\$71,999 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2026. To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance, Kootasca Community Action (218) 999-0800. North Itasca Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact Sheila Hafeman at (218) 743-3131 to set up a payment plan.

## Energy assistance

If you cannot pay your winter heating bills, contact one of these locations for energy assistance help.

KOOTASCA ENERGY ASS'T. -Itasca  
822 NE 5th Ave.

Grand Rapids MN 55744  
218-999-0800; 877-687-1163

KOOTASCA ENERGY ASS'T. - Koochiching  
900 5th St. Suite 304  
International Falls, MN 56649  
218-283-9491

BI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL  
P.O. Box 579  
Bemidji, MN 56601-0579  
800-332-7161

ITASCA COUNTY SOCIAL SERV.  
1209 SE Second Ave.  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-327-2941

KOOCHICHING COUNTY FAMILY SERVICES  
615 4th St  
International Falls, MN 56649  
218-283-8405

LEECH LAKE ENERGY ASS'T.  
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### Meter seals

If you or an electrician is performing electrical work at your residence which requires opening meter sockets or load control receivers, you need to contact North Itasca Electric first.

By contacting North Itasca Electric, you can help prevent possible problems which could occur when North Itasca Electric finds that seals have been cut. These problems would mostly be on sub meters where load control meters are installed.

This equipment is owned, controlled and maintained by North Itasca Electric. These seals may only be cut if permission is granted by North Itasca Electric in advance or deemed an emergency by an electrician.

North Itasca Electric does realize that there could be instances where work needs to be done, in such

cases; North Itasca Electric still needs to be contacted. If it is determined that loads have not been controlled during load control periods, demand charges could be applied to your billing.

### Doxo.com

There is an on-line bill pay website that appears to be affiliated with North Itasca Electric, but it is not. Doxo.com is third-party website that allows people to pay their electric bills via their site. However, doxo.com may charge the member extra fees, and North Itasca Electric cannot control when we will receive the member payments from doxo.com, possibly resulting in a late payment from the member or even disconnection due to non-payment. To make sure you're paying North Itasca Electric directly, visit our website [www.northitascaelectric.com](http://www.northitascaelectric.com), for our direct link to the online bill payment portal, mypcsportal.com.

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City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: North Itasca Electric Co-op P.O. Box 227 Bigfork, MN 56628

### NorthItascaElectric.com

- pay a bill, download a form
- find out about programs
- worksheets to calculate the cost of running your appliances

## National Cybersecurity Awareness Month: 4 Best Bets to Stay Cyber Safe

Protecting yourself online doesn't have to be complicated or expensive. A few simple habits can dramatically reduce your risk of falling victim to cybercrime. While you can never be "hackproof," you can become resilient in the online world.

At the heart of online safety are four essential behaviors we at the National Cybersecurity Alliance call the Core 4. These simple steps will help shield your personal information, protect your online accounts and keep your devices secure.

### 1. Use long, unique, and complex passwords.

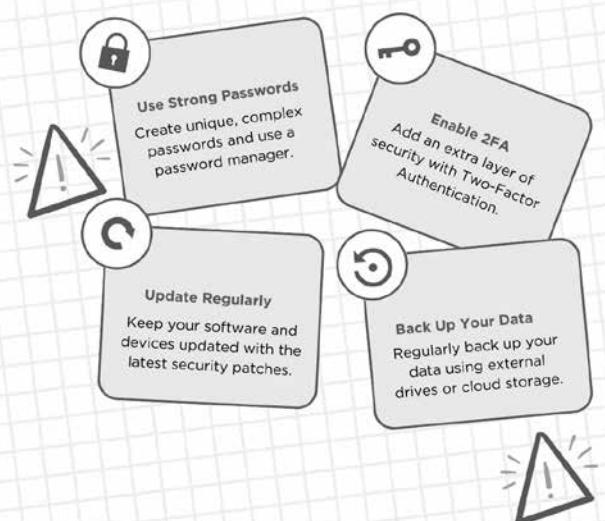
Your passwords are the first line of defense between a criminal and your sensitive information. Here's how to have amazing passwords:

- Every password must be long, unique and complex. Nowadays, every password should be at least 16 characters long, which significantly overwhelms password-cracking programs. Use a random mix of letters, numbers and symbols.
- Don't reuse passwords. Every account needs a unique password. Unfortunately, making small changes, like adding numbers or switching out an S with a \$, doesn't count as a unique password.
- Use a password manager to store and generate strong passwords. If you're wondering how to manage so many unique, long passwords, the answer is a password manager! There are many free, secure options. Password managers are the safest way to store your passwords. If you prefer to keep a password notebook, treat it like cash.

### 2. Enable multifactor authentication (MFA).

**Multifactor authentication** (sometimes called 2FA) adds an extra security layer by requiring something more than just your password to log in. Think of it as

## 4 WAYS TO SECURE YOUR DATA



using two locks on your digital door instead of only one. This could be:

- A one-time code sent to your phone
- A biometric scan like a fingerprint scan or FaceID
- A physical security key

Enable MFA on your accounts—especially email, banking and social media. It's a simple way to supercharge the security on your accounts. Also, never share MFA codes with anyone—this includes not sharing them over the phone, through texts or via email. Only scammers will ask for MFA codes.

**3. Keep software updated.** Software updates don't just bring new features. They often fix security flaws that criminals exploit. It usually takes a few minutes, but updates are worth it. Here are some tips:

- Turn on automatic updates when possible for your devices and apps. You can usually find these options in your Settings menu.
- Install updates promptly for your operating systems, browsers, antivirus tools and apps.
- Don't click Remind Me Later—the security is worth it.
- Remember your phones, smartwatches and tablets are computers, so keep these devices updated as well!

**4. Look out for phishing and scams.** Phishing remains the most common online threat. Criminals send fake emails, texts or social media messages to trick you into revealing sensitive information or clicking malicious links. These messages aim to get you to click before you think by playing your emotions. Scammers will even call you! Here's how to look out for phishing and scams:

- Be highly skeptical of unexpected messages, especially those urging immediate action or asking for personal details.

- Phishing emails can light up positive emotions ("You've won our sweepstakes!") or negative ones ("You've been hacked!").

- Don't click suspicious links or download unexpected attachments.

- Report phishing attempts to your email provider, social media platform or IT department.

- If you're unsure if a message is legit, ask a friend, coworker or family member. A second set of eyes can be invaluable in spotting scams.

*The National Cybersecurity Alliance is a non-profit organization on a mission to create a more secure, interconnected world.*

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Before you dig, call Gopher State at 1 (800) 252-1166. They will contact all area utilities to determine the locations of utility owned underground cables, lines and pipes. Keep in mind that only utility owned lines will be marked, so customers need to be cautious of any customer-owned underground electric or gas lines that may be located between their meter pole and house.

Visit your co-op at  
[www.NorthTascaElectric.com](http://www.NorthTascaElectric.com)  
Get updates on Facebook!

## Powerful precision tool improves reliability

In an industry that is rapidly evolving with infrastructure and new technologies and responds to transmission increasing demand for events.

efficiency, Great River Energy continues its strides to stay ahead by investing in innovative tools and strategies. One of those tools has transformed how the geographic information

manages system (GIS) on screen to estimate the location of a fault. These faults could be caused by any variety of factors, including insulation breakdown, equipment failure or environmental factors like lightning — leading to power outages and possible damage to the power system.

Previously, whenever a system occurred, Great River Energy's system operators needed to rely on measuring their power system. "System operations approached the GIS department and asked if there was a way we could help improve the efficiency of their fault location process, as the current process was cumbersome and time-consuming. So, we put our heads together to come up with a solution," said Jeff Grussing, manager of GIS development and technology at Great River Energy.



Great River Energy leverages GIS to identify the location of damaged equipment.

### Great River Energy leverages GIS to identify the location of damaged equipment.

reduces operational costs and improves reliability.

The system also stores the fault locations and lightning strike data for future analysis. Additionally, the fault locations can be displayed in a mobile app for workers to navigate to the exact site.

"The Great River Energy GIS fault tracing tool gives me precise fault locations down to the structure number. Isolation can be done within minutes with motor-operated switches, restoring members quickly and efficiently," said Marshall Brown, system operator at Great River Energy.

The two departments also collaborated with Great River Energy's IT development staff to develop a custom widget that enables near real-time access to this information.

Now, when a fault occurs, the GIS tool quickly interprets the data, traces to the distance provided and then visually marks the probable fault location on a digital map. This allows system operators to quickly direct crews to precise locations without relying on manual measurement. The result is a faster, more accurate response that saves time,

and enhances operational speed and accuracy in addition to supporting continuous improvement and smarter grid management.



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# Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

## STEAM DRYERS: How they work

Steam dryers work just like a conventional dryer but add steam into the drying process to reduce wrinkles, eliminate odors and sanitize clothes.

In heating and drying, just like any other dryer, steam dryers use hot air to dry the clothes. The wet clothes are tossed around the drum with the hot air circulating through them, evaporating the moisture from the clothes.

### Steam generation:

Steam is then introduced into the drying cycle in one of two ways.

1. In-drum spray: A fine mist of water is sprayed into the drum,

which then turns into steam because of the existing hot air.

2. Dedicated steam generator: Some models have a built-in steam generator that produces steam directly, which allows a more efficient and controlled steam application.

### Steam application:

The steam is released at specific points during the drying cycle. This process helps to penetrate the fabrics, softening them and reducing wrinkles. It also helps neutralize odors and sanitize the cloths by killing any germs and bacteria.

### Benefits of a steam dryer:

Wrinkle reduction without ironing, odor elimination and sanitization. Because steam dryers can refresh clothes without a full wash cycle, this saves you time, energy and water.

Two things to consider when purchasing a steam dryer:

Cost: steam dryers usually cost a little more than traditional ones, not only in price but also in cost if you have to add another water line.

Installation: some require a connection to a water line to generate steam, while others use a refillable reservoir.

## Co-ops: Powered by Purpose!

This month, in October, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you—the members who make it all possible. For us, it's not just a celebration. It's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.

At the co-op, we see purpose in action every single day. Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you—our members, our neighbors and our communities.

That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

At its core, being a co-operative means we are member-owned and locally controlled. That's not just a tagline; it's the very heart of our business model. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect

board members who live right here in our service area and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face.

Decisions aren't made in corporate board-

rooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at home, by people who care about the same things you do.

This local accountability means we can stay focused on what matters most: delivering reliable, affordable electricity and providing real value to the people we serve.

We do that by investing in essential infrastructure upgrades and technologies that strengthen our local grid and improve electric service. We work hard to manage costs and keep rates as low as possible—because we know how much rising prices affect families and small businesses in our area. And when storms hit or outages occur, North Itasca Electric crews are here and ready to respond quickly, because we live here too.

But our commitment doesn't end at the power

lines.

Co-ops were built to meet community needs, and that purpose extends well beyond delivering electricity. Whether we're supporting local schools or partnering with volunteer organizations, we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in the places we serve. Community support isn't an afterthought—it's part of our mission.

We're also planning for the future. As electricity demand grows due to

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Leaks reduce indoor comfort and lead to higher heating costs.

If you can see daylight around the edges of a window frame or if a window rattles slightly when touched, air is likely leaking.

Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows. These materials are available in a variety of compounds and forms, each designed for different types of surfaces. Choose the right product and apply it properly to reduce heat loss, improve comfort and lower energy bills.



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# October Range Sale



## **FCFG3062AB \$1024.40 SALE \$921.96**

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Experience quicker boil times with the 18,000 BTU burner. Cooktop flexibility with five burners including an oval center. Get consistent results every time with our even baking technology. 30-minute steam clean that's chemical free, odor free and fast. Move heavy cookware more easily with continuous grates. Front control range gives a built-in look, without the remodel.



## **FCRG308AS \$889.53 SALE \$800.58**

Frigidaire 5.1 c.f. 30" range, storage drawer, electronic clock/timer, sealed burners, self-cleaning mode, continuous grates, keep warm function, Sabbath mode, child lock, interior halogen light, preheat, temperature display, dishwasher safe component, control lockout, delay start, delay clean.



## **FCF13082BS \$16935 \$1169.35 SALE \$1052.41**

Frigidaire 30" stainless induction range with Air Fry. Easy to clean cooktop, boils 2x faster, convenient bridge element, 30-minute steam clean, convection bake, incredibly responsive, safer cooktop surface, extra large oven capacity, more efficient way to cook, hidden bake element. Use induction compatible cookware.



Call Roxanne with any questions  
218-743-3132



## **FCRE3062AW \$847.60 SALE \$762.84**

Frigidaire 30" 3.5 c.f. electric stainless range. Storage drawer, electronic clock/timer, self-cleaning mode, keep warm function, leveling legs, child lock, oven light, temperature display, hot surface indicator light, power on indicator light, delay bake, delay clean, steam cleaning, delay start, control lockout.



## **FGEW30664FC \$653.40 SALE \$588.06**

Frigidaire Gallery 30" single built in oven with 5.1 c.f. capacity and True Convection for even cooking. It comes with an effortless temperature probe for precise temperature control and quick preheat for faster cooking. Self cleaning, smudge-proof stainless.



## **MER3052AWW \$763.10 SALE \$686.79**

Midea large 6.3 c.f. white electric range . Steam clean, sleek seamless design, flexible 4- element cooktop, convenient preset cooking options, 2-year warranty (double the standard).



## **JB256DMWW \$710.45 SALE \$639.40**

GE 30" white, electric range with (4) coil burners, self-clean oven, Energy Star certification and innovative Sensi-temp controls for even heating.



**Sale prices good through October**



## EOW has new dedicated deputy

by Sally Sedgwick

The Northern Itasca Joint Powers Board met on August 27 with guests Sheriff Joe Dasovich, Chief Deputy Chris Peterson, Lieutenant Kyle Curtiss and Sergeant Jake Olson who presented a proposal for law enforcement coverage of the joint powers board area. The NIJPB includes the Edge of the Wilderness (EOW) cities of Effie and Bigfork, and Bigfork, Stokes and Marcell townships. It also includes Bigfork School and Bigfork Valley Hospital.

The Sheriff's Department presented five years of statistics on the municipalities, showing that last year Bigfork had 841 calls for service including 198 case files opened for more serious investigations, Effie had 238 calls with 36 case files opened, and Marcell had 268 calls with 35 case files opened.

The proposal included one or two full time deputies who – except for emergencies – would remain in the designated area. Hours when a deputy was not on duty would be covered, as now, by area deputies. Extra coverage for special events and public safety events would not incur more cost.

Matt Grose, superintendent of ISD318 was present and was asked about the school's need for a law enforcement presence. Grose pointed out "that kids knowing a deputy is around is important." He also spoke on the lifetime positive attitude toward law enforcement that kids could acquire from contact with a role model. District 318 serves the joint powers area except for Marcell, which is in ISD317.

Nathan Hough, CEO of Bigfork Valley, said the proposal appeared to be the best and most economical way to bring security to the hospital, and the board had supported an offer to fund one deputy. This would not add to the levy, he pointed out, which had already been finalized at no increase for 2026. The hospital also could offer a suitable office for the outreach deputy.

The next meeting of the NIJPB is Wednesday, Oct. 22 at 6 p.m. at the Discovery Center north of Marcell on Highway 38.

*Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum*

## Bigfork sets preliminary levy at slight decrease

At its meeting on Sept. 9, the Bigfork City Council set the preliminary budget and levy request. The approved budget totaled \$940,915.13. The preliminary proposed payable 2026 levy is \$202,280.70, which represents a decrease of \$330 over last year's proposed levy.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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## Wasps used to slow the spread of emerald ash borer on the CNF

This September, the other species.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service will complete a joint biological control effort to slow the spread of emerald ash borer in the Chippewa National Forest.

This effort, known as the parasitoid wasp program, involves the release of three species of non-stinging wasps to target EAB at different life stages, helping slow EAB without harming

The three wasp species — oobiu agriliis, tetrastichus planipennisi, and spathius galinae — are small and do not harm humans. They were selected by the USFS and tested extensively to ensure the wasps will not negatively impact other species or the environment.

MDA initiated the wasp program in 2010 to slow the spread of EAB in Minnesota. Since 2010, the program has expanded to 55 release sites in EAB-infested areas in the state. In 2025, 5,424

wasps were released in 200 acres of infested area of the Chippewa National Forest. A total of 8,480 wasps have been released over the last two summers. Currently no new infestation areas are within the forest according to MDA's EAB status map.

Minnesota forests are home to an estimated 1 billion ash trees. Minnesota cities also have an abundance of ash, making up 60% of the trees in some communities. The DNR places a high priority on programs like this one that help support forest health and resiliency.

EAB was first discovered in Minnesota

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## Edge Center Gallery

by Tina Appleby

In what often seems to be an ever-increasing state of chaos in this planet, what is our relationship with "place" and our inner psyche? How do our personal values --- and very identities --- relate to place ... --- a sense of place? What role does recollection play, and how/why do we attach value to our memories?

These are the sorts of

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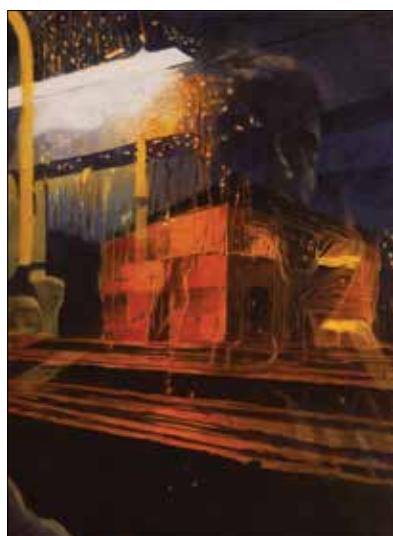
**Artist Paul LaJeunesse**  
**Anima Mundi ("World Soul") October 9 – November 1**  
**Artist Reception with appetizers Thurs., Oct. 9, 5-7 p.m.**  
**Gallery Hours Thurs.-Sat. 1-4 p.m.**

things that prompt artist Paul LaJeunesse to create the paintings you can see in our October exhibition. These works depict at least a part of the artist's identity/relationship to the world.

But they also serve as "vehicles" to promote

deeper reflection upon our own "place" – our own individual and specific values, memories, – and, ultimately, our own connection to the **anima mundi**.

As he reconstructs **space**, LaJeunesse's works have always revolved around the concept of "place", albeit with different foci at various



times in his life. "I do not (now) attempt to depict a scene", he explains. "The concept of place has neither subject nor object, rather it is the experience of responding to, and associating with, the physical environment." In quoting human geographer Yi-fu Tuan, LaJeunesse seems to recognize that any thought about a present experience necessarily results in distance from the experience, yet --- also, necessarily --- results in a resurrection of memory. Thus, what might otherwise be an elusive moment is preserved, becomes permanent. Such a process, likely repeated in various physical places at various times, builds our *sense* of place. And meaning to our life then surfaces, becomes more apparent, and,



probably, more savored.

The importance that Paul LaJeunesse ascribes to the connection of place to people is represented in many different manners including, more recently, murals made to create a sense of place and identity for an entire community.

LaJeunesse obtained his Master of Fine Arts degree from Bowling Green University in 2006. He has since been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards and grants. Mr. LaJeunesse has permanent works in Minnesota and Tennessee and has exhibited all over the United States, as well as in the countries of Iceland, Saitama and Japan.



Several universities have welcomed him as an instructor, including the University of Minnesota-Duluth, which is where he now lives.

Ancient Greek and Roman philosophy held that the world soul is animated, infusing the cosmos with life and intelligence. So don't miss this show! It is indeed an opportunity to drink in --- and contribute to! --- the **anima mundi**!

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## Christmas at the Edge 2

It's almost, yes it's almost, the Christmas season. Last year volunteers put together a successful show to celebrate the Holidays, and this year the Edge in Bigfork will host "Christmas at the Edge 2."

Lots of people of all ages are needed, including:

- Singers
- Instrumentalists
- Actors

- Dancers
- Elves
- Stage Hands
- Reindeer Handlers (Okay, maybe not)

The first rehearsal will be Wednesday, Oct. 29, with more rehearsals before the show on Sunday, Dec. 14.

Come to the Edge and join in the fun! Text or call Elaine at (218) 259-8439 for more information or to sign up.

## Practical Water Wisdom series with Itasca Waters

Join Itasca Waters online at noon on the first Thursday of the month for free informative programs by experts. Register and find out more information at [itascawaters.org](http://itascawaters.org).

**October 2 –When the Forest Burns, What's in the Water?** with Sarah Elliott, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey Upper Midwest Water Science Center, who will discuss the current science on post-wildfire water quality and offer recommendations for addressing these knowledge gaps.

## Outdoor skills & stewardship webinars

Try these Department of Natural Resources "Outdoor Skills and Stewardship" webinars. Each webinar begins at noon on Wednesdays and lasts less than an hour. For more information and to register, visit [dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach](http://dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach).

### Oct. 8 – Trail cameras: techniques to help you see more wildlife

Minnesota DNR biologists know a thing or two about trail cameras! Trail cameras are used for many of our research projects. Our biologists will be sharing their tips for capturing wildlife on camera (and of course, share some of their shots). Whether you're setting up trail cameras for hunting season or simply want to see what wildlife wanders through your property, you won't want to miss these tricks.

### Oxt. 22 – Lampreys of Minnesota

This spooky season, let's learn about a fish with a mouth that might give you nightmares! Minnesota is home to five native species of lamprey and one that is not native here. Some types of lampreys are parasites and known to suck the blood of fish. Tune in to learn more about each one.

### Nov. 5 – Native sculpin in Minnesota

Two species of sculpin are native to our southeast Minnesota streams. Join Doug Dieterman, fisheries research scientist, to learn more about these little species with big ecological benefits and what is being done to reintroduce them.

## Classic Movie Series

by Jack Nachbar

Way back in 1971, I'd read that the horror movie, *Night of the Living Dead* (1968) was a cheap production meant for double features. The quality of the move, however, had turned the picture into a popular film drawing big audiences. So a pal and I went to the drive in to see it. Whew! We were thrilled and terrified. I was so scared I thought I was going to rip the steering wheel off the car.

Some week later, I really was not surprised to read that *Night of the Living Dead* was becoming one of the most successful movie profit makers ever.

In a rural house somewhere in Pennsylvania flesh eating ghouls are attacking and brutally slaughtering the innocent. Some of the ghouls are shot, but, "they won't stay dead!" This was the first movie example of the modern zombie and its success influenced a whole

new horror movie type.

This is a scary movie! That's great for horror movie enthusiasts, but not so great for little kids. Leave them home.

*Night of the Living Dead* is a perfectly appropriate movie for a pre-Halloween experience. It will be shown FREE at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork, Thursday, Oct. 9.

**NOVEMBER CLASSIC MOVIE:** Saddle up for fun and action. John Wayne, Dean Martin, Ricky Nelson, and Angie Dickinson star in the VERY popular *Rio Bravo* (1959), Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Edge. FREE to all amigos.

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## They Brought Their Songs: International Folk Music in Minnesota with musical trio Caleigh.

The Arrowhead Library is bringing musical trio Caleigh to area libraries in October and November. This program is one hour long and is suited for adults and children ages 10 and up.

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 3:30 p.m.  
Grand Rapids Area Library

"They Brought Their Songs" weaves together stories and history of Minnesota with musical genres that highlight the diverse ethnic make-up of the state. Caleigh pairs harp, fiddle, bodhran, banjo, accordion, guitars, mandolin, congas, viola, contra bass and captivating vocals for a program that is a perfect harmony of Minnesota history. Connect with musical selections including Scandinavian, German, Italian, Finnish, Native American, French-Canadian, Irish and more.

*This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF).*

## SAIL classes

For more information or to register (required), contact ElderCircle at (218) 999-9233. New attendees may start anytime. Weights are provided but please bring your own water.

- Virtual via Zoom video conference  
Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

- Virtual via Zoom video conference  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

*In person at:*

- Bigfork Old Scenic Church  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- Bowstring Town Hall  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- Deer River, Bethany Lutheran  
Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

## area bookmobile stops

New to the area? Get your Arrowhead Library Card on the Bookmobile.

Mondays: Oct. 6, 27; Nov. 17  
1:45 - 2:30 p.m. Northome; Apartments  
3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Alvwood; Hoot-n-Holler  
4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Squaw Lake; Community Ctr

Tuesdays: Oct. 7, 28; Nov. 18  
12:00 - 1 p.m. Bowstring Store  
2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Effie: Country Store  
4:00 - 5:15 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall

Thursdays: Oct. 9, 30; Nov. 20  
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Togo: Junction Bar & Grill

Bookmobile or Mail-a-Book information: call Arrowhead Library System at (218) 741-3840

## Community Education

There are lots of interesting Community Education programs in the area during October. To find programs in Itasca County, see getlearning.org. For Blackduck and Northome classes, see the school websites or Facebook pages..

Here are some of the offerings this month:

**Astronomy Night – The Skies Above Us** with The Range Astronomy Club at the Marcell Town Hall. See star clusters, galaxies and nebulae through giant telescopes! Friday, October 10, 7:30- 9 p.m. Free, but must register.

**Get Out on the Trail with Your Dog Tracking!** Bigfork School parking lot, Saturday, Oct. 4, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (\$35), ages 15 to adult. The class limit is 8 dogs so register early with a working email.

**Make Your Own Horseradish** Harvest, prepare and take home a container of horseradish. Dress for the weather, wear rubber boots. Sat., Oct. 25, 1-2 p.m. at Goose Lake Farm, Spring Lake (\$20).

**Permit to Carry-Minnesota Training for Certification** Get your Minnesota permit to carry a handgun. Sat., Oct. 25, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork, ages 18 and up. (\$75)

**Pickleball 101: Learn to Play** A beginner-friendly class Fridays during October, 6-7:30 p.m. King Elementary gym. Paddles are available. (\$30)

## Defensive driving

The AARP Smart Driver course is designed for drivers age 55 and older. Drivers will benefit from a 10 percent discount on their auto insurance premium upon completion. The course is held at the Senior Center, King Elementary School, 500 SE 5th St., Deer River. To register, call 218-246-8241, ext: 60227.

Monday, Oct. 20: 4-8 p.m.

Cost for the class is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for nonmembers. Please arrive 15 minutes early for registration paperwork.

### Northome Food Shelf

12059 Main St

Bring your own bags.

1st Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon  
2nd Mon.: 2-5 p.m.  
3rd Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon  
4th Mon.: 2-5 p.m.

### Blackduck Community Library:

(218) 835-6600

Tues: 1-6 p.m..  
Wed: 9 a.m.-noon.  
Thurs: 12-5 p.m.  
Fri: 12-5 p.m.  
Sat: 9 a.m.-noon

### Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf

200 Main, Bigfork

Thursdays  
12:30-3 p.m.  
3rd Thursday  
12:30-4:30 p.m.  
(218) 256-4170

### Northome Library

(218) 897-5952

Mon: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
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Wed: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Thurs: noon - 6 p.m.  
Fri: 9 a.m.- noon

## Resource Centers:

Blackduck:  
(218) 835-5768

Northome:  
(218) 897-5952

## Community Cafe in Deer River

The Community Cafe is available to anyone who is in need of a meal. Each Monday - Thursday, 4:00 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. (or until gone), a nutritious three-course meal is served. Location: King Elementary School door #9. For more information, visit communitycafemn.org.

**B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork**  
Coffee Club/Cribbage, Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m.  
Bingo every Thursday, 1-3 p.m.  
B.I.G. meetings 1st Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.  
Crafting Group 3rd Wednesday, 5-7 p.m.

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

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Brad Dolinski, CEO								Date
Brad Dolinski, CEO								09/25/2025
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or any part of this form, or who omits any information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions.								

## Community News

### Bigfork

The annual Cow/Calf and Horse Sale will start at noon on Friday, Oct. 17 at the sale barn north of Bigfork, 36336 Co. Rd. 42. All livestock consignments are welcome starting at noon on Thursday afternoon through Friday morning. About 500 cattle are sold each year. Concessions are offered, and spectators are welcome. For more information, call Rob at (218) 244-2597, Glen at (218) 244-2870, Nick at (218) 244-3294 or Billy at (218) 694-3701. The sale is managed by the Bagley Livestock Exchange.

The Bigfork Improvement Group (B.I.G.) will host its Haunted House at the B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork on Oct. 31 from 4:30 - 7 p.m. Free for all ages: but beware! It's spooky!

### Marcell, Talmoon, Bowstring, Wirt: ISD 317 referendum

ISD 317 school district is seeking 10-year levy authorizations for capital projects and a per pupil increase. Come to a community meeting at the high school on Oct. 8, 6 p.m. to learn about school needs. You can also visit the page <https://standupforourwarriors.com/> for a Q/A, referendum wording, tax calculator and more information.

### General Interest

The 2025 Fall Studio Tour will take place on Saturday, October 4 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Visit with the artist, see their studios and shop! There are nine different studios on the tour, and twenty-one participating artists. A list of artists and a map are available at [macrostieartcenter.org/studiotour](http://macrostieartcenter.org/studiotour).



### Marcell Family Center

218-832-3444

49023 State Highway 38 Marcell, MN 56657

#### MFC hours:

Fitness Center, gymnasium, multi-purpose room, public computer room and WiFi hotspot.

Mon: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.  
Tues, Thurs: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.  
Fri: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

### ~ October Calendar ~

- 1 "The Club I Never Wanted to Join" breast cancer support group meets 3:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in the chapel, south entrance, Grand Rapids. More info with Lynn (218) (651) 303-8248, [lynn\\_ettl@msn.com](mailto:lynn_ettl@msn.com).
- 2 Jesse Lake Lutheran hosts a Grief Support Group at 10 a.m. on Thursday mornings. For more information, call Marion at (320) 293-5741.
- 2 "Practical Water Wisdom" online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: "When the Forest Burns, What's in the Water?" with hydrologist Sarah Elliott of the US Geological Survey Upper Midwest Water Science Center. Register at [itascawaters.org](http://itascawaters.org).
- 6 ISD 318 School Board regular meeting at Educational Services Center Board Room, 650 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids 6:30 p.m., open forum 6 p.m. Livestream at [watchictv.org](http://watchictv.org). Information: [jrasmussen@isd318.org](mailto:jrasmussen@isd318.org) or call (218) 327-5704.
- 8 Community meeting at the Deer River High School Commons, 6 p.m. to learn more about the ISD317 referendum on Nov. 4. There will be two questions: authorizations for a 10-year capital project levy and a 10-year revenue levy for \$300 per pupil.
- 9 The Edge Center Gallery, Bigfork hosts "Anima Mundi" paintings by Paul LaJeunesse . Artist's reception Thurs., Oct. 9, 5-7 p.m. The exhibit runs through Nov. 1; Gallery hours Thurs.-Sat., 1-4 p.m.
- 9 Classic Movies hosts "Night of the Living Dead" (1968), a "pre-Halloween experience!" Not recommended for young children. Showing at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center. Free.
- 11 Edge Center hosts "Sketches of Minnesota" Improv/Comedy, 5 p.m. Catered dinner, community conversation and comedy. Free but must register, see p. 16.
- 13 Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day
- 13 Women of the Woods, 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Comm. Center. More info, (218) 659-4796.
- 13 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 13 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 13 Perry Heide VFW Post 9703 meets the second Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center. Everyone is welcome.
- 14 Stop & Stitch meets at the Marcell Family Center the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. More info, call Debbie at (218) 360-1503.
- 14 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 15 Stitch-n-Bitch meets at the B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork the 3rd Weds of every month, 5-7 p.m. More info, call Krista at (218) 410-2258.
- 15 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Northome School
- 16-17 No school, all schools. MEA weekend.
- 17 Annual Cow/Calf and Horse Sale, noon at the sale barn north of Bigfork, 36336 Co. Rd. 42. Concessions, spectators welcome. Local consignments start at noon Thursday. More info call Rob (218) 244-2597, Glen (218) 244-2870, or Nick (218) 244-3294.
- 18 Harvest Festival at Spring Lake Store, 2-4 p.m.
- 20 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 21 Free Community Meal at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 45834 Co. Rd. 4 in Talmoon 4-6 p.m. Meatloaf and Cheesy potatoes. Takeout available.
- 22 Plum Thicket play reading #2 at the Edge Center, written by a local author. Come to read or listen, 6 p.m.
- 27 Women of the Woods, 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Comm. Center. Call Lori Dehn, (218) 659-4796.
- 28 Northwoods Quilters meet 4th Tuesday of the month through October at Marcell Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Show 'n Tell and quilting techniques.
- 28 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets, 9 a.m.
- 31 Trick or Treat through the Haunted House at the B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork, 4:30 - 7 p.m. Free for all ages.

**NOV**

- 1 Bigfork PTA hosts a Craft Fair, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Bigfork School. Sign up at Bigfork PTA Facebook page.
- 2 Daylight Savings ends, set clocks back one hour.
- 4 Special election for ISD317 (see Oct. 8)

Church directory sponsored by North Itasca Electric Cooperative, send changes to editor, [sedgwick@paulbunyan.net](mailto:sedgwick@paulbunyan.net)

### Area Church Directory

Alvwood Community Church	Sun 10:00a	Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA)	Sun 8:30a
58712 Co. Rd. 131		Hwy 1	
Blackduck 56630	218-659-4681	Effie 56639	218-743-3368
Balsam Bible Chapel	Sun 10:00a	First Presbyterian Church, BF	Sun 10:15a
41516 Scenic Hwy 7		109 Ash St.	
Bovey 55709	218-245-1960	Bigfork 56628	218-743-3783
Bear River Lutheran Church	Sun 10:00a	Gemmel Community Church	Sun 10:00a
11141 Hwy 22		10609 Town Rd 34	
Cook 55723	218-376-1012	Gemmel 56660	218-897-5966
Bethesda Lutheran Church	Sun 9:00a	Good Hope Church - Bigfork	Sun 10:00a
Mizpah 56660	218-897-5654	101 Golf Course Ln.	
Bowstring Chapel	Sun 10:15a	Bigfork, MN 56628	218-556-9856
45114 Co Rd 133		Grace Community Church (ELCA)	Sun 10:15a
Deer River 56636	218-832-3171	401 State Hwy 38 N	
Calvary Covenant	Sun 10:30a	Bigfork 56628	218-743-3368
54764 Co. Rd. 31		Hope Lutheran Church	Sun 10:30 a.m.
Northome 56661	218-897-5684	12234 Third St.	
Centennial Lutheran Church	Sun 8:30a	Northome 56661	218-897-5654
Hwy 46		Jehovah's Witnesses	Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a
Squaw Lake 56681	218-259-0115	Hwy 38	
Clara Lutheran Church	Sun 9:00a	Bigfork 56628	218-743-3275
41447 Little Clara Drive		Jesse Lake Lutheran Church	Sun 8:30a
Deer River 56636	218-360-1503	45834 Co. Rd. 4	
Deer River Bible Church	Sun 10:00a	Talmoon 56637	218-832-3883
33276 State Highway 6		Marcell Community Church	Sun 10:30a
Deer River 56636	218-246-9570	49103 State Hwy 38	
Dora Lake Alliance	Sun 10:00a	Marcell 56657	218-832-3200
59329 Co Rd 145		Northome Community Church	Sun 10:00a
Northome 56661	218-659-4551	12071 Bartlett St.	
		Northome 56661	218-897-5040

Northwoods Chapel	Sun 9:00a
50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622)	
Deer River 56636	218-659-2784
Old Scenic Community Church	Sun 9:00a
25747 Co. Rd. 340	
Bigfork 56628	218-743-3953
Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church	Sun 9:00a
Mass also Tu, W, 9:00a.	
320 Golf Course Ln	
Bigfork 56628	218-743-3255
Sand Lake Alliance	Sun 10:00a
55581 Co. Rd 4	
Spring Lake 56680	218-659-2872
Church website: <a href="http://www.sandlakealliancechurch.org">www.sandlakealliancechurch.org</a>	
St. Catherine's Catholic Church	Sat 4:00p
52265 State Hwy 46	
Squaw Lake 56681	218-743-3255
St. Michael Catholic Church	Sat 7:00p
12026 Lake St	
Northome 56661	218-743-3255
Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church	Sun 10:30a
42935 Co. Rd. 48	
Deer River 56636	218-832-3883
True Life Church	Sun 10:00a
45976 Terry	
Talmoon 56637	218-244-7089

Church directory sponsored by North Itasca Electric Cooperative, send changes to editor, [sedgwick@paulbunyan.net](mailto:sedgwick@paulbunyan.net)

## Zebra mussels confirmed in Bass Lake near Deer River

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Bass Lake, near Cohasset in Itasca County.

Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District invasive species staff contacted the DNR after finding adult zebra mussels attached to settlement samplers on the north and south shores of Bass Lake. Settlement

samplers are solid surfaces temporarily placed in the water that people can regularly check for attached zebra mussels to aid in detection.

Itasca County SWCD staff deployed the settlement samplers as part of their prevention and early detection efforts. DNR invasive species staff confirmed the presence of zebra mussels at multiple other locations in Bass Lake.

Whether or not a lake has any invasive species, Minnesota law requires people to:

- Clean watercraft, trailers and equipment to remove

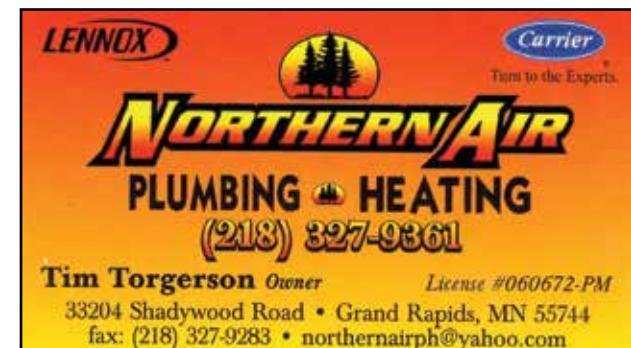
aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.

- Drain all water and leave drain plugs out during transport.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
- Never release bait, plants or aquarium pets into Minnesota waters.
- Dry docks, lifts and rafts for 21 days before moving them from one waterbody to another.

These additional steps reduce the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species:

- Decontaminate watercraft and equipment – find free stations on the courtesy decontamination page of the DNR website ([mndnr.gov/decon](http://mndnr.gov/decon)).
- Spray watercraft and equipment with high-pressure water or rinse with water if high-pressure water is not available.
- Dry watercraft and equipment for at least five days before using in another waterbody.

People should contact a Minnesota DNR aquatic invasive species specialist ([mndnr.gov/invasives/ais/contacts.html](http://mndnr.gov/invasives/ais/contacts.html)) if they think they have found zebra mussels or any other invasive species that was not already known to be in the waterbody.



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**Heather Chapman**  
Agency Owner  
Northern Minnesota District Office



55960 County Road 4  
Spring Lake, MN 56680  
Office 218-659-4370  
Cell 715-817-3990  
Tel 218-659-2200  
[hchapman@farmersagent.com](mailto:hchapman@farmersagent.com)



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### Flying Apple Flapjack

(Oven Pancake)

*Thank you to Mary Stuber for this October recipe!*

2 Tablespoons butter  
2 Tablespoons packed brown sugar  
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 medium cooking apple, thinly sliced  
2 eggs  
1/2 cup flour  
1/2 cup milk  
1/4 teaspoon salt

Heat oven to 400°. Melt butter in 9 inch parchment-lined pie plate in oven. Sprinkle brown sugar and cinnamon over butter. Place apple slices on cinnamon/sugar mixture.

Beat eggs slightly in medium bowl, adding other ingredients just until mixed (do not overbeat). Pour batter over apple slices.

Bake approx. 30 minutes until puffed and golden brown. Right away, loosen edge of pancake and turn upside down on serving plate. Makes 2-4 servings.

### Cauliflower Greek Salad

*Thank you to Janet Kogler for this October recipe!*

In 9"x12" pan, put torn head lettuce or romaine leaves.

Layer, don't mix, the following:

1 large Bermuda onion, sliced  
1 head cauliflower, sliced  
1 lb. bacon, fried and crumbled.

**Dressing:**

2 cups Hellman's mayonnaise  
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated  
1/4 cup sugar

Mix ingredients. Put on top of layered salad.  
Can make a day ahead.



**Please share your recipe with us!** If your recipe is chosen, you will receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill from North Itasca Electric Cooperative. Send your recipe to the editor, WATTS NEWS, P.O. Box 43, Spring Lake, MN 56680.

**DEADLINE**

for the NOVEMBER issue:

**Friday, Oct. 14****-SERVICES-**

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interior/exterior  
Call for free estimate  
20 yrs experience  
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✓ Habitat Improvement  
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✓ Firewood processing

**-FREE-**

*Silver popple seedlings:*  
2-3 ft. tall. Fast growing  
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(218) 832-3453 10/25

**-WANTED-**

*Wanted: Truckload of*  
100" maple firewood.  
Call (218) 308-1335 11/25

*Clean pine needles:* will  
pay \$5 for every 33 gal.  
bag. Call first, (218) 832-  
3453 10/25

*In search of:* harp instruc-  
tor. Call (218) 340-0659.

10/25

**CLASSIFIEDS****-FOR SALE-**

*For sale:* Cut, split, sea-  
soned maple, ash, birch  
firewood. Call (218) 910-  
6610 11/25

*For sale:* Two 9 x 7 insu-  
lated steel garage doors  
with windows and mount-  
ing hdwe, fair cond. One  
needs paint, other needs  
insulation. Older Liftmas-  
ter door opener included.  
All three for \$100. Near  
Dora Lake. Call (218)  
308-1335 12/25

*For sale:* 2000 Caterpil-  
lar D3C Series III LGP  
Crawler Dozer. 6 way  
blade, hydrostatic drive,  
CAT 3046 diesel 6 cylinder  
engine, 3300 hours,  
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carriage. Located in Mar-  
cell, MN \$34,000 OBO.  
Call Jerry (cell) (630)  
399-0250 or brknlinn@  
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11/25

*For sale:* Redfield Wide-  
field 2X7 power rifle  
scope with rings. A clas-  
sic scope in perfect con-  
dition. \$ 250. Call (218)  
659-2797 11/25

*For sale:* Black & Decker  
automatic breadmaker,  
Model B 1800. \$50. Po-  
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*For sale:* Sixty 3 5/8" x 10  
ft. aluminum studs, \$120.  
Nine piece 50# weight  
lifting set, \$75. Call (218)  
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*For sale:* Rare 1950s  
'blonde' cabinet with  
glass doors and two draw-  
ers, very nice. \$100. Call  
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*For sale:* Aluminum lad-  
der for floating dock. Ex-  
cellent condition, used  
only a few summers.  
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luth. \$100 cash/Venmo.  
Call (218) 591-1073 10/25

**-FOR SALE-**

*For sale:* Small Toro  
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blower. \$75. Call (218)  
832-3488 12/25

*For sale:* 13.75" x 12"  
safe, \$50. Call (218) 832-  
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*For sale:* Ranger boots,  
size mens 13. New. \$40.  
Call (218) 832-3488 11/25

*For sale:* Mid-century  
modern metal 28"x28"  
wall hanging, \$100. Call  
(218) 832-3488 11/25

*For sale:* Following items  
for sale due to downsize-  
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able, adjustable Work-  
mate table, like new, \$75.  
Sears craftsman 3 hp  
compound miter saw, exc.  
cond. \$200. Makita table  
saw, exc. cond., \$200.  
Queen size clean mat-  
tress \$10. Call (218) 659-  
2797, Located on Sand  
Lake. 10/25

*For sale:* 2 doz. Half pint  
canning jars. \$8 for the  
box. Talmoon area. Call  
(218) 832-3453 10/25

*For sale:* Home sawed  
lumber 2x4 2x6 and 1  
inch boards. Call (218)  
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*For sale:* Clam Fish Trap  
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cover. \$300. Call 740-  
703-5097 11/25

*For sale:* Aluminum lad-  
der for floating dock. Ex-  
cellent condition, used  
only a few summers.  
Originally purchased  
from Fleet Farm in Du-  
luth. \$100 cash/Venmo.  
Call (218) 591-1073 10/25

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*For sale:* 15 ft. fiberglass  
camouflage canoe, made  
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*For sale:* 14' Crestliner  
fishing boat with 3 swiv-  
el boat seats and trailer.  
\$300 obo. Call (218) 910-  
9750 or (218) 966-2052

10/25

*For sale:* The Paddle  
King peddle boat. Seats 4.  
Damaged pontoon needs  
repair. \$50 obo. You will  
need a snowmobile trailer  
to haul it. Call (218) 910-  
9750 or (218) 966-2052

12/25

**-POWER SPORTS-****-SNOWMOBILES, ATVS-**

*For sale:* 1929 Model A  
Ford snowmobile. Re-  
stored trophy winner in  
excellent running condi-  
tion. Comes with a car  
hauler trailer on four new  
tires & current license  
tab, as well as additional  
Model A parts. Price is  
\$23,500. Pictures avail-  
able at: pkjlbj@gmail.com,  
can be seen near Talmoon.  
Call (320) 249-0330 for more info

10/25

**-VEHICLES-****ACCESSORIES-TIRES**

*For sale:* 2004 Buick  
Lesabre, lower mileage,  
newer rubber, very good  
condition-and yes, driven  
by a little old lady. \$4,800.  
218-910-6610 12/25

*For sale:* Original front  
floor mats from 1950  
Mercury auto, brown col-  
or, perfect condition, \$40  
Call (218) 659-2797 10/25

**-CAMPERS-**

*For sale:* 2001 Cougar  
24 ft. fifth wheel hookup  
camper with one slide out.  
In good cond. Sleeps 6.  
Call (218) 639-2558 10/25

**-FARM-**

*Hay for sale:* square bales,  
mixed grass, baled dry,  
stored dry. \$5 per bale.  
Call (218) 244-0957 11/25

**-REALTY-**

*House for rent:* with op-  
tion to buy. VERY rea-  
sonable price in Effie on  
10 acres. Call (218) 969-  
6266 10/25

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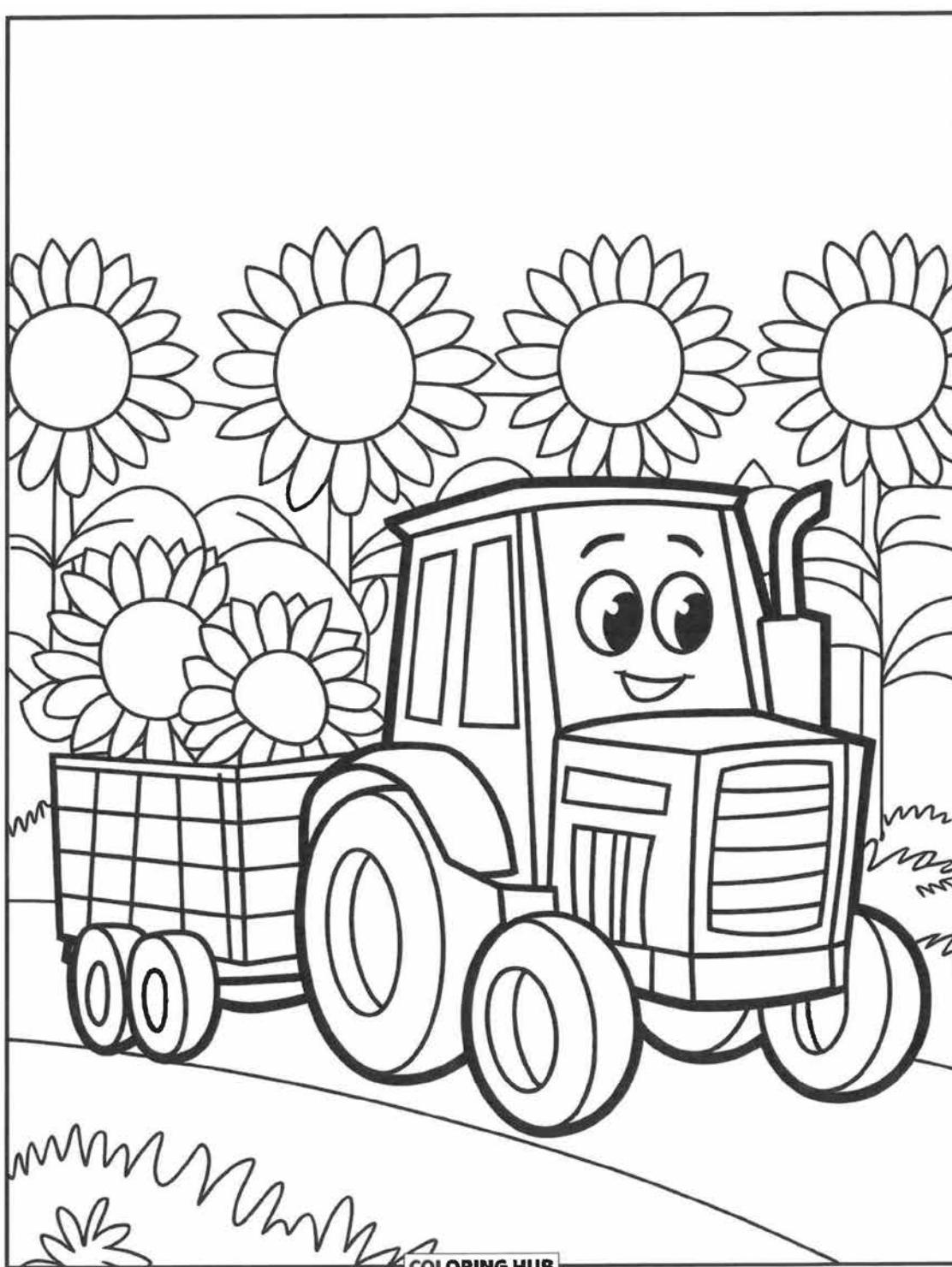
Send to:

Editor, WATTS NEWS,  
P.O. Box 43  
Spring Lake, MN 56680 or  
call: (218) 659-2779  
or email: sedgwick@paulbunyan.net

Put WATTS AD in subject line.  
If no response, please resend.



## Kids Fall Coloring Contest



COLORING HUB

### Kids Fall Coloring Contest!

Have fun with a fall coloring contest for grades K-3! There will be one winner from each grade: Kindergarten, First, Second and Third. Entries must be received by **Thursday, October 30**. They can be dropped off at the office or mailed to P.O. Box 227, Bigfork, MN 56628 Attn: Daryl.

Winners will be notified and posted to our Facebook page on Oct 31.

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## Improv/Comedy with a Local Twist Coming to Bigfork

The Edge Center for the Arts in Bigfork has been selected as one of just ten communities in Minnesota to host the 2025 Sketches of Minnesota traveling improv comedy tour. The event will take place on October 11, beginning with a social hour at 5 p.m. and free catered meal and community conversation at 6 p.m. This event is free – register as soon as possible to reserve a meal.

Audience members can expect to engage in conversation facilitated by the Minnesota Humanities Center about what makes their communities wonderful and unique, what challenges they face, and what future they imagine. Members of the improv comedy troupe from Danger Boat Productions will use what they hear in these conversations as a basis for a laugh-out-loud unscripted comedy routine immediately following.

To reserve your free tickets, visit <https://www.mnhum.org/event/bigfork-sketches-of-minnesota> or scan the QR code below.



*Sketches of Minnesota is funded in part with money from the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Fund, by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and by the Initiative Foundation, West Central Initiative, and Blandin Foundation.*



### Annual Cow/Calf and Horse Sale

All livestock consignments welcome.

**Friday, Oct. 17 • 12 noon**

36336 County Road 42, north of Bigfork.

*For more information, contact:*

Rob Wendt (218) 244-2597  
Glen Hopkins (218) 244-2870  
Nick Francisco (218) 244-3294



Sale managed by Bagley Livestock Exchange.

Concessions available onsite. Spectators welcome.

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